

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3206

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1935

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY

STATE ALSO FOR IET

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENERGY, IT (LA MALFA)

SUBJECT: LAMALFA'S VIEWS ON ENERGY CONFERENCE

1. TREASURY MINISTER LA MALFA ASKED ME TO SEE HIM THIS

MORNING PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TOMORROW AS SECOND MAN IN THE ITALIAN DELEGATION TO THE ENERGY CONFERENCE. HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON THE CONFERENCE INCLUDING THE SECRETARY'S HARVARD/YALE/PRINCETON SPEECH.

2. LAMALFA TOLD ME THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION AT THE C-20 MEETING AND ELSEWHERE THAT MANY EUROPEAN MINISTERS FEEL THAT THE SECRETARY HAS BASICALLY A HARD ATTITUDE TOWARD EUROPE. THIS PERCEPTION LEADS HIM TO THE CONCERN THAT THE FRENCH MIGHT SEEK TO EXPLOIT THESE ATTITUDES TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE CONFERENCE. LAMALFA SAID-AND I THINK YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF HIS VIEWS-THAT HE BELIEVES THAT IN THIS SITUATION THE UNITED STATES SHOULD SEEK TO OPEN THE CONFERENCE IN A CORDIAL AND RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. IF THIS CAN BE DONE HE BELIEVES THAT AMERICA'S FRIENDS WILL HAVE AN EASIER TASK IN COOPERATING TO BRING THE CONFERENCE TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

3. LAMALFA TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE FINAL INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH HAD INSTRUCTED FOREIGN MINISTER MORO
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YESTERDAY. MORO'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE ABSOLUTELY FIRM ON ONE POINT. HE IS TO COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE WILL ALSO SEEK TO AVOID GETTING DRAWN INTO CONFLICTS WITH THE FRENCH OR OFFENDING THE PRODUCERS BUT AS REGARDS RELATIONS

WITH THE UNITED STATES HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR.

4. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT WE SEE THIS CONFERENCE AS CONCERNED NOT ONLY WITH ENERGY BUT WITH UNITED STATES-EUROPEAN RELATIONS AS WELL. LAMALFA AGREED COMPLETELY. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE FOR EUROPE IF IT COULD NOT CO-OPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND IT COULD NOT RESOLVE ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS. HE IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY AND IS WATCHING THE SITUATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM VERY CLOSELY. HE TOLD ME THAT IF MATTERS CONTINUE TO WORSEN THE OUTCOME COULD BE THE EVENTUAL BALKANIZATION OF EUROPE. THEREFORE, HE SAID IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL AS A FIRST STEP IN REVERSING THE PRESENT TREND THAT THE CONFERENCE SUCCEED. VOLPE

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